

Dr. J. M. J. Dispatch

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MONDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 1912.

THE MAYOR'S CABINET.

The municipal cabinet for Richmond's city government proposed by Mayor Ainslie must be commended as an innovation in line with well-ordered and efficient municipal government. Its novelty will make its utilization here of much interest to other American cities.

The cabinet system in a municipality like ours will tend to increase the responsibility of the Mayor, without involving any decrease of that of the department heads, because the system will inform the Mayor of the important business of each department and put him on notice to a responsible degree. Of course the ideal system would call for the appointment of all department heads by the Mayor, for under such an order he would be held responsible by the people for the efficiency or inefficiency of the administration, but such a complete centralization is not possible here at this time.

The new policy will bring the Mayor closer to the administrative activities of the city government, and by investing him with a large measure of responsibility in an advisory capacity, will make his office more serviceable than it has been in the past. While Mayor Ainslie was elected by the City Council, by his program he demonstrates his realization that his office is the only important municipal position filled by a vote of all the people of the city. He is not chosen from any section, but from the whole city. He is thereby invested with a responsibility to the people for leadership and for initiative, which he has been quick to accept.

The municipal cabinet will create correlation in the work of the city; it will eliminate duplication and waste by the departments. It will make the departments more efficient, and therefore their work more satisfactory. It will make for definiteness and uniformity in municipal policy. It will abolish the intrusion of one department into the proper sphere of another. It will insure expedition and efficiency in departmental work. It will give to each department the inevitable benefit of deliberate and well-considered counsel. It will effect economy in the cost of government and prevent error.

The office of Mayor in American cities has been regarded too much as a merely negative office, as merely a check on other departments. The newer and the better conception of the mayorality is that it also possesses affirmative powers of recommendation and administration. Mayor Ainslie at the inception of his term gives no uncertain evidence of his realization of the value of advanced ideas in city government.

WOMEN AND CLEANER RICHMOND.

The women of Richmond are taking the right step when they begin making arrangements for a united organization of all their forces for social uplift and charity. The fight against vice and other forms of civic disease must be made by a union of every good agency. The forces making for evil are all organized; they are working relentlessly, and sporadic and individual opposition by this or that society can do little to remedy the whole condition. It is to be trusted that the present movement in which so many strong organizations are represented will result in a large permanent machinery for getting co-operation and centralization of action for civic betterment. If such an agency is formed, it should face the whole problem of a cleaner and better Richmond, and not limit its labors to the immediate aspects of charity or moral reform.

The resolutions adopted by the women representatives of civic and religious leagues Friday make an excellent platform on which to begin. It is time to begin work now for an act in the next Legislature raising the age of consent to eighteen years. It is high time not only to provide comfortable quarters for working women, but to give them night schools, clubs and amusements. It is time for every moral person to help in the efforts to raise the average of moral life among both young and old. The Times-Dispatch has for months advocated the greater use of school buildings for social and educational purposes other than the few school hours each day. They belong to the people and would help the people to educate themselves and live happier lives. To begin with, the school houses can be utilized for voting places with a saving of money to the city.

The curfew law we fear will not work. It has not proven efficient elsewhere. It partakes of the prohibitory, negative kind of regulation that accomplishes little. Keep the children off the streets by giving them something to do, not by driving them. A chaperon for the picture shows, sounds new and strange, but many cities have inspectors for all forms of public amusement. If these places do not live up to the rules, their licenses are re-

voked. That is a simple and quick remedy.

Most earnestly does The Times-Dispatch agree that something should be done to elevate the moral tone of the vaudeville given in moving picture shows. Last week in one house on Broad Street a joke was repeated three times a day for six days that exceeded the possible limits of suggestiveness. It was sexually vulgar and in direct line with some of our recent tragedies. There should be a censor for these so-called amusements. If the good people of Richmond will get together and do something, not talk or advocate nonconstructive measures, a great advance in every civic activity is within reach.

TEACHING BY PAGEANTS.

The United States will soon catch up with foreign nations in the matter of pageantry. Already it is becoming popular in this country, and the moving pictures of these patriotic spectacles abroad, such as those shown in Richmond last week, stimulate a desire on the part of Americans to picture their great national epochs in a like way. Patriotic societies, genealogists, teachers, civic associations and many other bodies are advocating pageants in many States. The principal holidays of the year are now celebrated in certain cities by historical pageants that please and instruct multitudes and kindle anew a keen interest in the panorama of the past.

The success of the elder nations in this direction is to be equaled, and perhaps excelled, by the magnificent pageant that will take place in San Francisco at the opening of the Panama Canal. On that occasion there will be replicas of the stirring scenes which led to the discovery and development of America and phases of its wars, its early efforts at civilization, the progress of the nation, its wealth and industries will be reproduced.

The educational value of pageants for the people cannot be overestimated, for through them a clear conception of the history of the nation is gained. Surely Richmond will soon adopt the idea and have annual pageants depicting memorable scenes in the annals of the city and the State which will stir the patriotism of all observers. As rich as it is in history, Richmond cannot be outstripped by cities which have played a lesser part in the moulding of the nation. An annual pageant could appropriately be made a part of the movement to boost Richmond.

OUR PROTECTED COTTON MILL OPERATIVES.

Southern cotton mills are principally engaged in the production of low-grade fabrics. By the use of the automatic loom these cloths are manufactured in the South as cheaply as abroad. The English mill owners have ceased to compete for this class of trade and are devoting their energies to novelties or to more finished goods. As a consequence, the fear of competition from abroad is not strong in the Southern textile centres and there is comparatively little support of a protective policy. In New England, where cloths of higher grades are manufactured, the situation is entirely different. The cry is constantly going forth from that section that a high tariff is needed to save the cotton industry from ruin and disaster and to protect the operatives against the products of the so-called pauper labor employed in the textile centres of Great Britain and Europe.

Recent disclosures growing out of the labor troubles in Lawrence, New Bedford and other textile centres have caused widespread doubt as to the need for the high customs duties on cotton fabrics which the New England manufacturers have been so insistently pressing upon Congress for the past fifty years. It is now known, as the result of official and unbiased investigation, that while we have had protection against foreign competition in the sale of cotton yarns and cloth, the so-called cheap labor of Europe has been permitted to enter the country freely and to compete with American operatives for the employment offered by the New England mills. As a result of these conditions, Southern and Eastern European immigrants of low standards of living, and without any permanent interest in the country or in the cotton goods industry, have displaced the native Americans and the English, Irish and Scotch workmen in the cotton mills of the North Atlantic States. Only one operative out of every ten at the present time is an American. Seven out of every ten operatives, representing half a hundred different races, are of foreign birth. The French-Canadians, Greeks, Portuguese, Poles and Italians appear in the largest numbers. If the function of the Republican tariff law is to protect the American workmen against the pauper labor of Europe, it is superfluous, so far as the New England cotton mills are concerned. The native American has practically left the industry and his place has been taken by cheap operatives from Southern and Eastern Europe and the Orient.

On the other hand, if we assume that the purpose of the protective tariff is to improve the economic status of our wage-earners of whatever nationality, we are led to the conclusion that it has been a hideous failure so far as the New England cotton goods industry is concerned. The wages paid are on a family basis and a married employee is not able to earn an amount sufficient to support his family. The annual earnings of husbands in the mills average only \$470. The average yearly family income is \$721, the funds supplementary to the earnings of the husband being obtained by the earnings of wives and children in the mills, or by contributions received from boarders and lodgers who are taken into the home. Only 30 per cent of the married operatives can entirely support their families. Twenty per cent of the households of operatives contain an average of four or five boarders or lodgers. The result is a high degree of congestion and unsanitary and unsatisfactory living arrangements. As a matter of fact, the living conditions of the cotton mill workers in Lancashire, England, are better than those of the operatives in the large textile centres of New England. A comparative study recently made by the British Board of Trade also reveals the astounding fact that although the money wages are higher in New England than in Great Britain, owing to the higher range of prices in the United States, the real wages—the commodities purchased—are slightly higher in England than in our North Atlantic States. The contention, therefore, that the protective tariff benefits the American cotton mill employee is not borne out by the existing wages and conditions of employment. The facts clearly show that the cotton schedules of our high tariff laws have not benefited the New England cotton mill operative.

But the actual condition of the wage-earners in the New England cotton mills is not the only proof that they have not participated in the tariff bounty. The relation between labor cost of manufacturing cloths of various descriptions and the present customs duties on these fabrics also points to the same conclusion. The figures contained in the recent report of the Tariff Board furnish more than 100 cases illustrative of this fact. The labor cost of producing calico prints, for example, is about 1 cent per yard and the prevailing duty is 5 cents. On making plain ginghams, the labor cost is only 2 cents, but the duty per yard under the provisions of the Payne-Aldrich law is 4 cents. Our protective tariff laws, in other words, if enforced solely in the interest of the cotton mill worker, would afford the possibility of adding greatly to their present rates of payment. As it is, there has been a decline in real wages and a retrogression in working conditions. If the employees of the New England mills have not been the beneficiaries of our high tariff laws, what class of business interests have? Evidently the manufacturers and jobbers, and chiefly the latter. By the employment of illiterate aliens, the manufacturer has been able to destroy in large measure the labor unions of the original employees and to secure his labor on advantageous terms. The customs duties have also enabled him to add an additional margin of profit to the mill price. And jobbers or wholesalers of cotton goods, however, have obtained the largest profits from the tariff. Without fear of foreign competition and through control of a great many sources of production, they have been able to dictate the price to the long-suffering consumer. As the great body of consumers are also wage-earners, the practical effect of the protective tariff system has been to exploit the cotton mill operative both as a producer and as a consumer.

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Voice of the People

Suffrage and Racial Salvation.
 To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
 Sir:—The suffragist movement is Nature's test to separate the grain from the chaff; it is Nature's final assay to secure the gold and discard the dross. If the white race is to achieve more than any nation has accomplished, naturally it must have something that no other nation has had. The history of nations shows that they have all thrown aside the cornerstone and that they have all gone down in defeat. Not one nation has given its women the source of its existence, equal rights with men. No stream has ever risen higher than its source. Yet men have for thousands of years tried to circumscribe, to weaken, and to control the source of the existence, instead of broadening and strengthening the stream of life. The suffragist of the future will be a strong woman, mentally and physically, the battle which she will have to fight to secure her rights will produce a new woman and the mother of a great race. The weak sisters will fall by the wayside and there will remain a few of the earth's true women, of high character, high intelligence, high energy, high courage, high resources, high enough, and who think enough, to pass by the weak and foolish men, to catch the strong and wise men. Then we will have a nation that will conquer the world and hold it eternally.

Nature has never gone backward, and for hundreds of years has been preparing the world for the suffragist. The suffragist is here; Nature is with her. What can you do about it? CUDY NATURE, the world.

JOHN H. CHAFFIN.
 Richmond.

Abe Martin
 "The fellow that's allus talkin' 'bout doin' somethin' 'bout as soon as he finds 'em, knows where 't' big fish hide. This is 't' 'st campaign I bin remember when folks jist follow you around 't' tell you how there goes 't' vote."

There's a good deal of talk about what shall be done with Roosevelt. For our part we'd like to see him made referee in the Medical College of Virginia-University College of Medicine football game.

Fishmon and John L. are both for the Colonel. Come on, Corbett; come on, Sharkey; come on, Jeffries! Whom are you for?

Here's hopin' that Richmond College will win at least one football game this year!

On the Spur of the Moment

By Ray K. Meulou

According to Uncle Abner.
 If you want to keep your friends, don't live too close to 'em.
 You can't make a feller feel much better any way than by telling him that he has a good lookin' suit of clothes on, whether he has or not.
 Ame Hilliker, our popular and congenial grocerman, says he hopes his cheese and crackers and codfish will hold out until the presidential campaign is over. The debaters in his store never get so interested in their subject that they forget their appetites.
 There never was a time in history when this country wasn't goin' to the dogs as fast as it could and it has never got there yet.
 Hank Purdy is a Progressive and an equal Suffragist. He believes that women should be allowed in the sphere of man. He lets his wife do all of the plowin'.

From the Hickeyville Clarion.

The congregation of the Hardshell Church wanted to give the sexton something to let him know that his long years of service were appreciated, and a church meeting was held for that purpose. After several speeches and much argument it was decided to give him the grass from the church lot to take home, after he had cut it. The sexton keeps a cow and this token of esteem will be highly appreciated by him.

Grandma Perkins' co-laborers at the feed mill where she has the position of foreman, gathered at her home on the occasion of her ninety-seventh birthday anniversary one evening last week and presented her with a fine meerschaum pipe, the cornucop she has used for the last seventeen years having become worn out. A pleasant time was had and the feller who had contributed 25 cents apiece toward the pipe each got about a dollar's worth of food.

Mr. Anson Frisby, our well known banker, has caused much comment by painting the two iron dogs in his front yard a brilliant green color. Gentlemen who have been going home from the Golden Nugget with packages have seen the green dogs and have rushed to the jag cure, regardless of expense.

This community seems to be about equally divided Taft and Roosevelt. The women are all for Taft and the men are all for Roosevelt.
 A prominent Chicago politician says he wouldn't take the presidential nomination if it were offered to him on a golden platter. No, probably not. He would take the platter.

Song of the Pedestrian.

There's a land that is fairer than day
 And by faith I can see it afar.
 It's a land where the drivers are sane
 And you don't dodge the fast touring car.

In the sweet by-and-by
 We shall meet on that beautiful shore.
 In the sweet by-and-by
 We shall turn double hand-springs no more.

We Could Live Without These.
 New York police scandals.
 Mexican revolutions.
 "Oh, You Beautiful Doll."
 Pink stationery and violet ink.
 My Hero.
 Speeches of acceptance.
 Ward politicians who have all Home-made obituary poetry.
 Cigarettes.
 Balkan War clouds.

Richmond Boosters

One hundred and four of the representative business men of the city of Richmond, Va., were the guests of the Greater Charlotte Club last night for several hours, during which the visitors got some idea of the business and social hospitality of the city of Charlotte, and during which the business men of the city learned that Richmond is not a competitor but an ally in the commercial and financial world.

Mayor Charles A. Bland welcomed the visitors on behalf of the city. He declared that he was with peculiar pleasure that he welcomed the progressive men of Richmond and declared that there is no reason for competition between the business men of the two cities and he believed that such events as this tended to cementing the ties.

Mayor George Ainslie, of the city of Richmond, responded to the address of Mayor Bland and opened with the declaration that the visitors were grateful for the warm words of welcome from the chief executive of the city of Charlotte.

"We have looked forward all day to reaching Charlotte," said the Mayor. "Even the porter on my car said to me last night, 'Mr. Mayor, you going to have a big time to-morrow night, and I asked you, 'Oh, said he, 'we going to be in Charlotte, and it was so throughout the entire train. That Charlotte would welcome us with its arms, and that we would be sorry to have to leave here."

President George Stevens of the American Trust Company and the Observer Publishing Company was the next speaker, and he expressed a hearty welcome on behalf of the financial interests of the city. "I feel that we should make this an annual event," said Mr. Stevens, "and that it should go into our calendar along with our annual celebration of the Declaration of Independence."

SENTIMENT DURING OFFICE HOURS.

By John T. McCutcheon.

(Copyright, 1912, By John T. McCutcheon.)



"I wonder if she will telephone me today. I'm awfully anxious to hear her voice again."



"I think I will read her letter over again."



"I wonder whether I'd better wear my long tailored coat or my dinner coat when I call on her tonight."



The new chief accountant and the new head clerk.

National State and City Bank

Richmond, Virginia.
 Capital, \$1,000,000.
 Paid up, \$250,000.
 Surplus, \$750,000.

First National Bank of the United States.



"I wonder if she will telephone me today. I'm awfully anxious to hear her voice again."



"I think I will read her letter over again."



"I wonder whether I'd better wear my long tailored coat or my dinner coat when I call on her tonight."



The new chief accountant and the new head clerk.

Richmond Boosters

was formed, a body of great influence which the city of Richmond has had the honor to entertain on three separate occasions and desires to again entertain in 1913.

"A city of wealth and health, ability and happiness, with a population of 40,000 and destined to have 100,000 in 1923."

"I understand the Greater Charlotte Club to be a great factor in Charlotte—what our Chamber of Commerce is to Richmond. A city of good government and high credit, where bond issues are always sold at good figures. The city of electric energy."

"I congratulate the people of Charlotte upon their city. Outside Richmond there is none better."

The next speaker was the chief booster of them all, William T. Dabney, business manager of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Dabney spoke in a characteristic strain, paying high tribute to Mayor Ainslie and declaring that the people of Richmond are backing him to make a better city. He spoke of immigration and declared that Richmond has no use for such immigration as some cities are getting, and that unless a man will make a good citizen, Richmond would raise him early in the morning and send him to a material agency from a municipal viewpoint, and that we must look to the nature of our population increase and lay aside the matter of sentiment of the effort to have big increases in population.—Charlotte News.

The coming of 104 business men of Richmond to participate in the advantages of the city as a commercial center and as deserving of the excess of trade that is not handled by local markets has had the effect of stimulating tours and it is already being agitated. Soon after the Boosters from the capital of Virginia came to Charlotte last fall, prominent leaders of the Charlotte Boosters discussed the proposition, but allowed it to drop before it reached serious proportions. It is believed, however, that the club will get behind the matter and organize the local interests in a tour that will include the principal towns and cities of the two Carolinas.

Richmond merchants are thoroughly pleased with the success which has followed their efforts. They believe that they have assured the city a volume of business that could not have otherwise been secured, have diverted trade that has been going to more prominent commercial centers of the United States. They have gone about the proposition with serious purposes in mind. The firms represented on the tour have been among the best and most important of Richmond. Mayor Ainslie stated that included on the trip were members of firms representing capitalization of \$25,000,000—the cream of the business interests of that city. All sorts of interests were represented. In many instances, firms sent their heads or their most influential salesmen. Some had as many as two on the trip in order to see that no ground was left uncovered.

"You city and the county of Mecklenburg are known wherever the question of good roads is agitated, for I am told that there radiates from Charlotte some twelve to eighteen macadamized roads, and practically the entire county is rapidly being brought to your places of business over hundreds of miles of these highways."

"Four sublimely prominent, the Manufacturers' Record, in a recent article, credits you with having in course of preparation a development second to none in the East."

"Your diversity and volume of manufactures and jobbing is attracting much attention and your retail business, led as it is by a splendid array of goods, is a splendid asset to the territory and the steam and electric railroads bringing the people from all directions is of much value to this city."

"This is the real cradle of liberty. You claim the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, signed in this city on May 20, 1775, and the farmers of Mecklenburg on that day were so proud of the thing that was then probably forming in the mind of Thomas Jefferson."

"It was in your city that through largely of you, through the Southern Manufacturers' Association, that the American Manufacturers' Association was formed."

Richmond, Virginia.
 Capital, \$1,000,000.
 Paid up, \$250,000.
 Surplus, \$750,000.